

Message Text

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TAGS: ELAB EALR GW

SUBJ: WAGE AGREEMENT IN LOCAL METALWORKING INDUSTRY

1. ON MARCH 12 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EMPLOYERS IN THE NORD-BADEN-NORDWUERTTEMBERG METALWORKING INDUSTRY, EMPLOYING SOME 540,000 WORKERS, AND THE METALWORKERS UNION IG METALL REACHED AN AGREEMENT CALLING FOR A 5.4 PER CENT WAGE INCREASE EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 1976, PLUS A LUMP SUM PAYMENT OF DM 330 FOR THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF THE CURRENT YEAR, AND ONE ADDITIONAL DAY OF ANNUAL LEAVE AS OF JANUARY 1, 1977. THIS ADDS UP TO AN AVERAGE WAGE PACKAGE INCREASE OF 5.77 TO 6.8 PERCENT.

2. THE UNION BOARD APPROVED THE AGREEMENT ON MARCH 15 AND THE EMPLOYERS NOW MUST APPROVE OR REJECT IT BY MARCH 22. THE NATION-WIDE EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION, GESAMTMETALL, ANNOUNCED THAT IT OPPOSES THIS AGREEMENT SINCE IT IS LIKELY TO ENDANGER PRESENT EMPLOYMENT LEVELS, THE INCIPIENT ECONOMIC REVIVAL AND THE STABILIZATION OF PRICES. SINCE THIS AGREEMENT IS THE FIRST TO BE WORKED OUT IN THIS YEAR'S ROUND OF WAGE NEGOTIATIONS, THE OUTCOME WILL NOT ONLY INFLUENCE METALWORKERS WAGE NEGOTIATIONS IN OTHER DISTRICTS OF THE FRG, BUT WILL ALSO HAVE AN EFFECT ON PENDING NEGOTIATIONS IN THE PUBLIC WORKERS SECTOR.

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3. FRANZ STEINKUEHLER, CHAIRMAN OF IG METALL BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG, HAS DECLARED THAT IF GESAMTMETALL DOES NOT ACCEPT THE AGREEMENT A STRIKE CAN HARDLY BE AVOIDED.

4. MEANWHILE THE LOCAL PRESS IS UNANIMOUS IN RECOMMENDING ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGREEMENT.

5. AS OF NOW, IT APPEARS THAT THE AGREEMENT WILL BE RATIFIED IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN LABOR PEACE IN A PERIOD OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY. JENKINS

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